



GROUND COVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP

AUGUST 2011

VOLUME TWO

ISSUE SEVEN

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Art Fair booth a success thanks to dedication of vendors



by **Susan Beckett**
Publisher

I am so proud of Groundcover's senior vendors. In late spring they had the foresight and drive to get an Art Fair booth.

They banded together and bought that booth like a time-share, so each had specific time slots that belonged to them. They created a stand-by list and emergency procedures, along with etiquette and rules for booth conduct. Shelley organized and displayed the schedule on a spreadsheet.

They thought about marketing strategies. Rissa created a display that featured the vendor for each time slot.

Passers-by could see their photo and the articles they had contributed or been featured in. James and Lee teamed up to make a banner. Tony suggested a garland of street papers from other cities so visitors would recognize them and understand that Groundcover is the counterpart to their paper.

They came up with their own methods for deciding the order in which they would choose their time slots and

resolved related problems on their own. Austin anticipated potential problems and the group decided on contingency plans.

Each seller brought their own materials and managed their own finances and supplies but they worked together for their mutual success. With them as our backbone, Groundcover has a strong future!



by **La Shawn**
Courtwright
Grouncover Vendor

When you get fed-up with how things have

been going in your life, then maybe you should change your attitude, and

Changing our attitudes can change our lives

I've decided to do just that. Yeah, I know it seems like if it's not one thing, it's another. I am one of those prime examples of this saying. My old attitude has taken me on a journey that has had plenty of bumps and hurdles to get over. Vicissitudes shape your life.

I am taking the opportunity, while I'm still able, to modify my reactions and responses to curtail any hardships. We avoid things sometimes; although we want change, we are fearful of the unknown. My past is an old form, and my future is taking on a new shape. I find that this transformation I'm making has given me a renewed confidence I was lacking before. It seemed easier to accept what I was used to dealing with rather than branching out with my own ideas. I used to feel like I'd already failed before I attempted any project. That attitude itself confirmed defeat. I approach things with surety now. In this, I accept that change, the changes I want to see, will come eventually. We oftentimes have too-great expectations, instead of honoring the subtle outcomes of our efforts. It's when we begin to do this that we surmount.

I took on a very negative posture in some areas of my life, and not only did it affect me, it caused

devastation for my dearest, closest loved ones. I keep this in mind to remind me and keep me from those behaviors. For I can clearly see how they only kept me in bondage, furthering my despair.

I'm very grateful to all of those who offered me good advice. Yet, there are two special friends of mine who stand out. They bore with me and hung in there. They did not say to me what I wanted to hear; they told me what needed to be said.

Mrs. Florence Allen has always encouraged, praised, and continues to believe in me. Mrs. Allen was a pioneer of the Mary Kay Cosmetics and Beauty Products business with Mary Kay herself. They did this during a time when people did not believe that women had the ingenuity to successfully run a business. She did not let that stop her, and she's still going strong today and is an outstanding director in the business of Mary Kay.

Mrs. Melissa Duncan, owner of The Cleaning Goddesses, afforded me many chances when I was at what seemed like the end of my rope. She gives me good old straight talk, no matter how hard the pill is to swallow. Mrs. Duncan told me how she worked hard at starting her business. She never gave up no matter what came up, even if it meant to go and do the job herself.

I think these women know me better than I know myself. I love them and all of the people who did not let me off the hook or turn their backs on me. These women are excellent examples of how having the right attitude can change your life.

I also cannot forget to thank Sandy Schmoker, who was there when I first arrived at Groundcover News. I read some of my writings to her and she had encouraging feedback. I think coming from an educator, they are highly esteemed. Rissa Haynes and Susan Beckett warmly welcomed me to Groundcover News, too. I was so overwhelmed with emotion. I literally had a tearful moment. These were tears of joy, though. This was my first day and it happened that there was a Groundcover News meeting that evening. I left to go run a couple more remaining errands and I was inspired to write the "Voice" piece. I've always had a voice and an attitude. I now have a positive vessel, Groundcover News, for my voice with a new attitude. When I read the "Voice" piece at the meeting later that day and Susan Beckett asked me to e-mail my writing to her, it sparked a light in me. I began to feel my self-worth again. I already know my life has been changed because of you all and Groundcover News.

THANK YOU!

GROUNDCOVERNEWS

MISSION:

Groundcover News exists to create opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty.

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Crazy optimism and faith

by Rev. Dr.
Martha Brunell
Pastor,

Bethlehem United Church of Christ

Thirty years ago, I was living in and serving a church in a neighborhood a couple of miles directly north of downtown Saint Louis. There were places in our Hyde Park neighborhood where you could clearly see the Arch. The skyline was a short drive away. One early April morning, I came downstairs from my upstairs flat to find two young boys from the congregation sitting on my front steps. They had their baseball gloves in hand.

"Whatcha doing?" I asked.

"Oh, Rev. Martha, we're gonna

catch a fly ball this season."

(From my front stoop? I wondered quietly. That would be a long, long fly ball!)

They went on, "Yes, we're gonna catch a fly ball this year, and the Cardinals are gonna win the World Series."

The year's baseball season was due to start that very day. Not a game had yet been played. I smiled at their crazy optimism and faith and went across the street to my grown-up duties at work.

Sure enough, six months later, in October of 1982, the Cardinals did win the series in a blazing display of what was known then as "Whitey ball." It was a fast game, with frequent

short hits, plenty of stolen bases, and a sprinkling of back flips by the beloved shortstop.

Last month, as I read the issue celebrating Groundcover's first anniversary, I was struck with joy about similar crazy optimism and faith for what will happen in this second year of publication. Groundcover has its sights set high, not unlike two young boys on my front steps in 1982: Circulation will multiply several times over. Lots of additional community connections will be made.

New strategies, borrowed from similar street papers, will be adopted. The micro-economic impact of the paper will blossom more fully in the lives of vendors. Previously unheard voices will have pages on which

to become visible and tell their stories.

Anniversaries are a great time to look forward and plan with hope and anticipation.

Groundcover began publication in July 2010, and I started my tenure as pastor at Bethlehem a month later. Our anniversary times converge in a provoking way for me. I know I draw considerable strength from the Groundcover story and presence.

One of my dreams at Bethlehem is that the crazy optimism and faith in the Groundcover office, housed in our building, will seep widely into our ministry, our hospitality, our programming, and our future wondering

about who we are and how we are called to be here on South Fourth Avenue. One of my dreams in Ann Arbor is that the gutsy determination of Groundcover will spread throughout town like hardy groundcover plants making themselves known way beyond their original planting spot.

In the circles where I roam, there is significant gratitude for Groundcover. It is a newspaper to hold in our hands, a newspaper that focuses on stories of substance, a newspaper able to both tell it like it is and tell it like it might be, and a newspaper unafraid to burst the barriers of old goals and plans. How blessed we are as Groundcover settles in for a bold second year of crazy optimism and faith. Thank you.

Values and fairness in budgeting make sense for all

by Susan Beckett
Publisher

Values are revealed in actions, not rhetoric, and our national response to the deficit and national debt will define us as a nation. In June I met with the Washington offices of most of Michigan's members of Congress to discuss poverty alleviation measures. In our current fiscal environment, those discussions inevitably included how to address the deep concern over the federal deficit and national debt in a humane way.

The Ryan budget, passed by the House but defeated by the Senate, called for steep reductions in domestic and global poverty assistance programs. Subsequent proposals to control spending include budget caps and a balanced budget amendment which have been described as Trojan horses that would soon manifest the same cuts the Senate found untenable in the Ryan budget.

Many of the aides with whom I spoke concurred that the resultant cuts to Head Start, in which 11,000 Michigan children would lose their pre-school education, was an unacceptable consequence of such indiscriminate cost-cutting. Further cutting of humanitarian foreign aid – which is already under four-tenths of one percent of the budget – jeopardizes education initiatives which would

ultimately open more markets to the U.S., global health initiatives which save lives and enhance our security, and any claim we might have to moral leadership. Even without cuts, we occupy the lowly position of 37th for donor countries based on per capita income.

Caps and triggers abdicate responsibility for grappling with the tough questions that underlie the deficit, such as:

- *What will our entitlement programs look like in the next decade?*
- *What is the role of foreign aid with respect to security and defense?*
- *How to curtail defense spending, which has been growing nearly 10% every year for the last decade?*
- *What are we going to do about tax policy?*

I found it interesting that none of the Republicans with whom I spoke thought there was any possibility of allowing the Bush tax cuts to expire or raising taxes in any way to address the deficit, despite the fact that those cuts are the single largest contributor to the growing national debt. (See graph, page 7). If fiscal conservatives believe the national debt is an urgent problem, why would they eliminate the one tool that has the potential to make an immediate,

significant impact?

Back in 1983, Michigan faced a \$1.7 billion budget deficit, the threat of bankruptcy, the worst credit rating in America, and record-high unemployment of more than 17 percent. Then-Governor Jim Blanchard

and the legislature responded by raising the state income tax for a period of two years, after which the rate automatically reverted to 4 percent. They also implemented programs to spur small business development, which eventually

see Americans, page 7

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8:30 am and 10 am ~ Worship

10 am ~ Summer Church School

August Note:

August 7 ~ Heritage Sunday (rededication of the stained glass windows, baptism, Holy Communion)

~ Ice Cream Social ~ 11:15 am

August 26 ~ Parking Lot Pretzel Sale ~ Noon-4 pm

an invitation to grow in spirit and serve with joy

Ann Arbor and pizza — a recession-proof formula

by Susan Beckett
Publisher

Restaurateur Dave Khoury found his four years of retirement to be "the longest, worst four years of my life." Having sold his Detroit-area Damon's Grill franchises just before the start of Michigan's latest recession, he was wary of buying into a business while Michigan still languished in economic doldrums.

Recalling the insatiable appetites of students from his days at Eastern Michigan University and subsequent ownership of the Beehive Party Store, the Farmington resident set out for Washtenaw County. In 2009, he found Pizza Pino for sale on Liberty Rd. in Ann Arbor and liked the recession-proof nature of the business as well as the quality of the pizza and location. The owner agreed to sell his recipes along with the store, and Khoury was off and running — even though he had no experience with pizza or Italian food.

His 30 years of experience owning and running restaurants made him a quick study. He expanded the menu, added catering, and changed the name to Pizza Pino Eatery to reflect the more extensive menu. With 10 years as a Damon's franchiser, three times as franchiser of the year, adding St. Louis-style fall-off-the-bone barbecued ribs was an easy choice. Each summer new menu items are tested out and successful ones make it to the fall menu. Even hot dogs got a thorough run-through before the selection of Hebrew National all-beef hot dogs as the foundation for the 10 gourmet hot dog offerings that are among the restaurant's most popular selections.

The homemade soups, hummus, falafels and cookies are courtesy of Mary, Khoury's wife of 30 years. They met at a Detroit riverfront ethnic festival where Mary was the festival queen and Dave was smitten. Born and raised in Detroit, his weak spot for everything associated with festivals can be traced back to riding atop his father's shoulders, watching the Christmas parades. He was thrilled when, years later, Mayor Archer awarded him a prime spot for his ribs cart.

The summer seafood tests that led to fish, shrimp or smelt and chips reflect Khoury's 20 years as a Big Boy franchiser of three restaurants on the west side of the state, where he was twice named franchiser of the year. Comedian Howie Mandell used to stop by one of his restaurants on his way from Chicago to Detroit, back when he was doing stand-up in the late 1970s. Khoury recalls him being very nice and not so much of a germaphobe as he is now.

Khoury's Sterling Heights Damon's customers

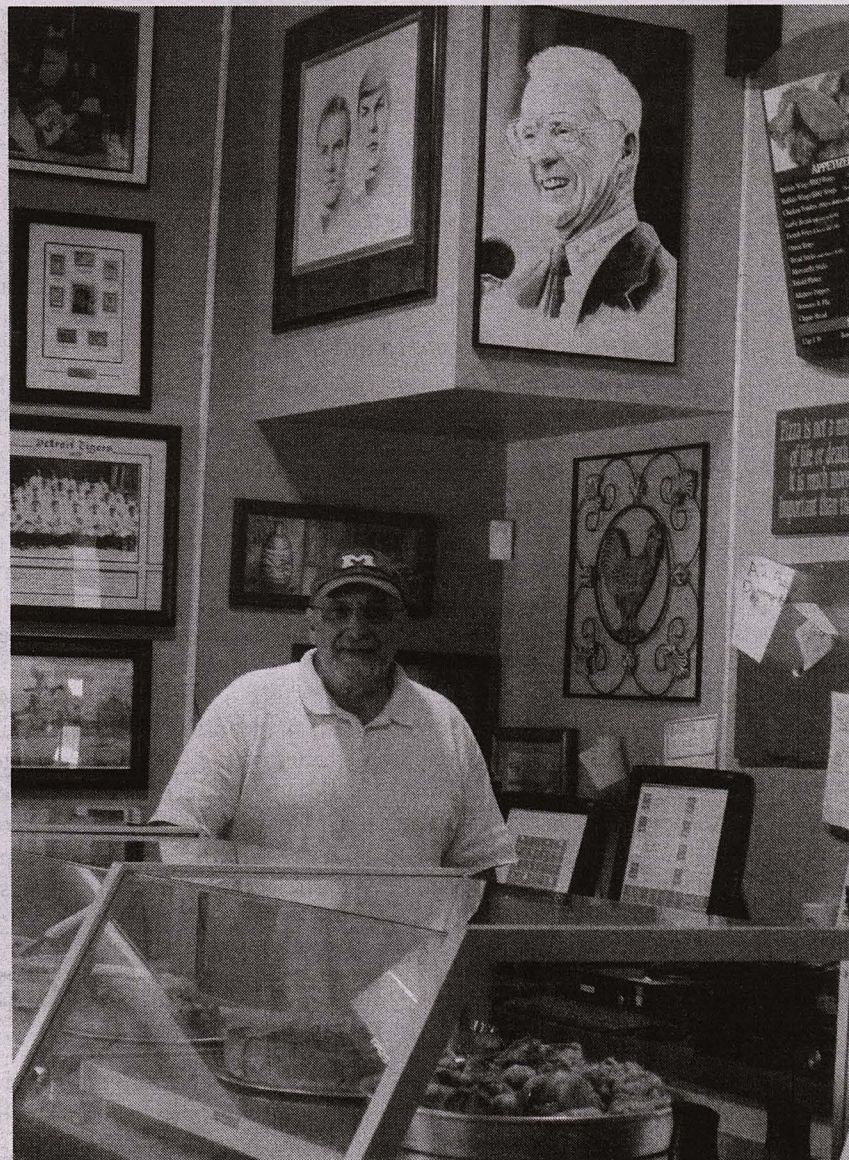
included Barry Sanders, Scott Mitchell, and a host of other Detroit area sports stars. One of his fondest memories is of a Make-A-Wish Foundation event he hosted where all the proceeds went to the foundation. The entire Red Wings team came and played video hockey games with the kids on the 10-foot video screens.

So why step down to a single store in Ann Arbor? "I just wanted a quiet little place where Mary and I could be comfortable and work on something," he says.

Nonetheless, the businessman in him led him to choose a location and niche business that enjoys at least moderate success even in economic downturns. His Ashley St. location pays dividends on Friday and Saturday nights when the place is packed with people stopping in for a bite to eat after a night of clubbing. Even so, 50-60% of business is delivery and another 15-20% is pick-up.

Once Khoury's three daughters completed college and headed to medical school, the financial strains eased considerably. His son was recently accepted to medical school, too. Khoury attributes his children's interest in medicine to his insistence that they work in his restaurants when they were teens. They quickly developed a keen interest in education, though they are all excellent cooks. His eldest daughter now works with autistic and speech-impaired children; the middle daughter is an orthopedic surgeon; and the youngest daughter is in her periodontics residency.

Khoury graduated with a degree in Medical Technology and recalls making his own agar and analyzing blood by hand while in school. But he was never strongly drawn to medicine, and he started his entrepreneurial career at the Beehive the day after graduation. That entrepreneurial spirit is still alive and well, and promises continuing change and innovation at the corner of Liberty and Ashley.

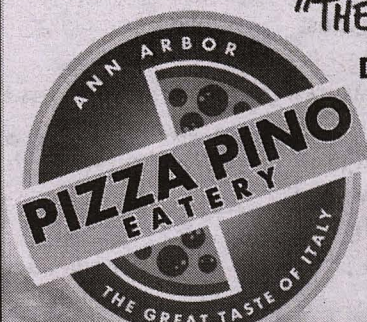



Restaurateur Dave Khoury in his store, Pizza Pino, surrounded by eclectic art.

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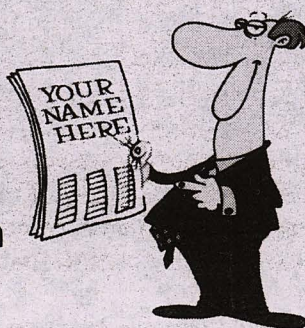
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Kiva micro-loans help bring street newspaper to Detroit

by Susan Beckett
Publisher

Meeting local needs and building economies from the bottom up is what microcredit is all about. Kiva brings the global community into the process by profiling viable potential borrowers on its website and accepting loans for those businesses from anyone with at least \$25 to invest. Started five years ago in Uganda to get financing for small businesses like goat herding and a bike shop, the nonprofit organization is bringing its technology to Detroit in a joint venture to spur entrepreneurial growth in cities in the United States.

The soon-to-be-launched Thrive Detroit Street Newspaper qualified as one of Kiva Detroit's first five approved borrowers. Their thousand-dollar loan was matched by a thousand-dollar grant from 1Matters, a Toledo non-profit that provided the initial financial backing for street newspapers in Toledo and Ann Arbor.

Detroit is the first U.S. city to benefit from the Kiva model, driving economic opportunity and poverty alleviation through micro-entrepreneurship. Kiva Detroit partners the online social investing organization Kiva, with the micro-lender ACCION USA and community supporters from Michigan Corps, to provide micro-loans in Detroit. ACCION provides risk assessment analysis and financial literacy programs and underwrites the loans. The Knight Foundation donated \$250,000 in matching funds to speed up the cash infusion into the budding businesses.

According to Michigan Corps founder Anuja Jaitly, Detroit's selection as the launch city was largely because "We already have a culture [here in Detroit] of helping one another." Michigan Corps is a social network of local and global Michiganders committed to positive change in Michigan. They help identify local businesses and start-ups that need capital. Michigan Corps operates statewide and yearly launches several projects focused on education and entrepreneurship. Jaitly asserts Michigan Corps and Kiva will spread throughout Michigan as community organizations in other cities request collaboration.

The enthusiasm of Elizabeth Garlow, a recent graduate of Kalamazoo College, was another key component. As an AmeriCorps volunteer, she worked in ACCION's Boston office. (ACCION is a worldwide micro-lender that has made more than 20,000 loans in the U.S.) When KIVA called and asked about forming a partnership in which their online site would drum up investors for ACCION borrowers in a U.S. city, Elizabeth jumped at the chance to bring that opportunity to Detroit.

Meanwhile, the John S. and James L. Knight

Foundation, which supports projects in cities where the Knight Brothers owned newspapers, had also been talking with Kiva about advancing community engagement in the U.S. through Kiva. Trabian Shorters, an MSU grad born and raised in Pontiac, represented the Knight Foundation. He commented on those embarking on new enterprises: "The risk of failure is not the real failure. It's leaving life's dreams unfulfilled."

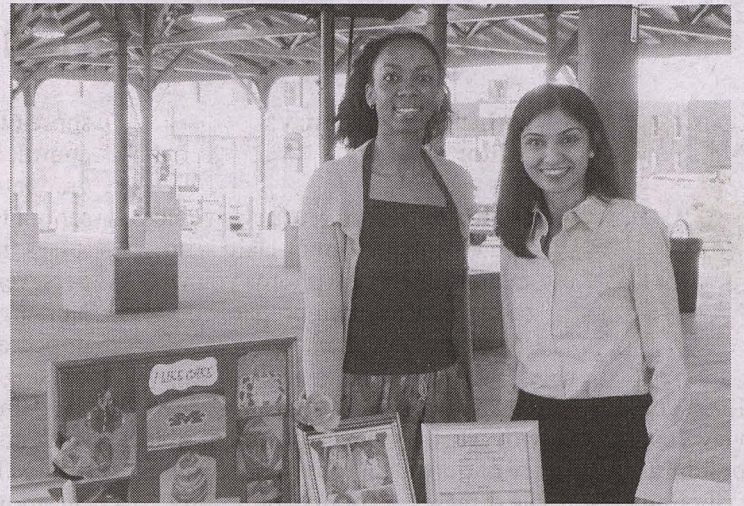
Kiva co-founder and CEO, Matthew Flannery, explained that Kiva's mission goes beyond matching investor micro-philanthropists with micro-borrowers, as financial inclusion leads to digital inclusion. Borrower profiles on the web augment sales and marketing, as well as financing.

"The newspaper [Thrive Detroit] can get new readers as well as lenders to drive their business," said Flannery by way of example. Other recipients of early Kiva Detroit loans include Nick Tobier, an artist who has worked with students at Detroit Community Schools in the Brightmoor neighborhood. They created a prototype of a bicycle trailer that the teenage students will hand-build in different sizes to haul cargo behind bikes. His team already has 10 orders. Tobier teaches at the University of Michigan School of Art and Design and at 826 Michigan, the tutoring and writing center on Liberty Street in Ann Arbor.

Rounding out this first working group of approved Kiva Detroit borrowers are Midtown resident Crystal Lecoy's plans to open Detroit's first vegan food truck; Emily Thornhill's Homeslice Clothing, specializing in American-made organics; and Jeanett Griffin's Life Style Management Concierge Services, offering business administration, personal assistance, and elder care.

Within three hours of having their businesses posted on Kiva.org, five enterprises were all fully funded at a total of the \$11,450. Loans in U.S. cities average \$7,000 and the loan maximum is \$50,000. Unlike the five Kiva Detroit loans, some of these loans go to a linked group of borrowers. Borrowers repay their loans with interest ranging from 8.9% to 15.9%, based on how risky their venture is deemed.

Other emerging businesses were invited to showcase their enterprises at the Kiva Detroit press release launch event. Tamika Tyson, owner of the baking company I Like Cake, has been working seriously on her business for about two years but did not qualify for a loan this time. She has this advice for those starting businesses: "Be patient. It may not appear it is going to pay off. Get a mentor. I found someone, watched what they did and I mimicked



TOP: Local entrepreneur Tamika Tyson and Anuja Raitly, founder of Michigan Corps, standing by Tamika's display for her business, *I Like Cake*.

ABOVE: Matthew Flannery, Kiva founder, talking with a local businessman. Kiva is an online broker that promotes pre-screened, low-income micro-entrepreneurs who need to borrow money with people in the community who want to finance them. The borrowers do pay interest but it goes toward covering administrative costs. Lenders are repaid without interest. Visit Kiva.org to learn more or to make a loan.

what they did in the financial realm." She will try again in six months to get a loan that will enable her to expand her inventory, do more advertising and, most importantly, buy her own edible image printer. Eventually she hopes to get financing to take the business out of her home and into a commercial kitchen, preferably one attached to a place where her family can live. She, her husband, and her sister run the business in their "spare time" while each holds down another full-time job and raises a family.

A coffee/tea shop had also unsuccessfully sought a Kiva loan. Though they needed financing, the owners were a little too well-off to qualify for a Kiva loan but did not have enough assets for a conventional loan. They participated in the ACCION-sponsored financial literacy seminars and received some guidance and suggestions from Michigan Corps. Eventually, they found family and friends willing to put up some of the money, and with that in hand, were able to secure a bank loan. Their boutique operation is housed in a hotel lobby and doing well.

The butterfly effect – a stirring in Ann Arbor makes a big change in Haiti



by Laurie Lounsbury
Editor

No matter how many news videos you've watched about Haiti – no matter how many photos you've seen – nothing can prepare you for the reality that is Haiti.

It is a country with lush scenery and stunning ocean views contrasted with crushing poverty and crumbled buildings. A country of poor people suffering from crippling yet curable diseases; a country of proud people dressed in crisp, ironed clothes emerging from homes the size of a U.S. bathroom and made of corrugated tin and canvas. A country of the world's greatest mangoes, coffee and rum, yet a country whose infrastructure doesn't support an export economy to share those products with the rest of the world.

In the midst of such chaos, I had the honor of seeing "the butterfly effect" in motion. The butterfly effect is the sensitive dependence on initial conditions, where a small change at one place can result in large differences in a later state. Hence the name, which refers to a butterfly flapping its wings in one place and creating a hurricane in another place at a later time.

I traveled to Haiti with two intrepid Ann Arbor women whose determination and untiring efforts have resulted in high quality nursing education in Haiti. They are among the group of 16 dedicated people from around the U.S. who comprise the Haiti Nursing Foundation board.

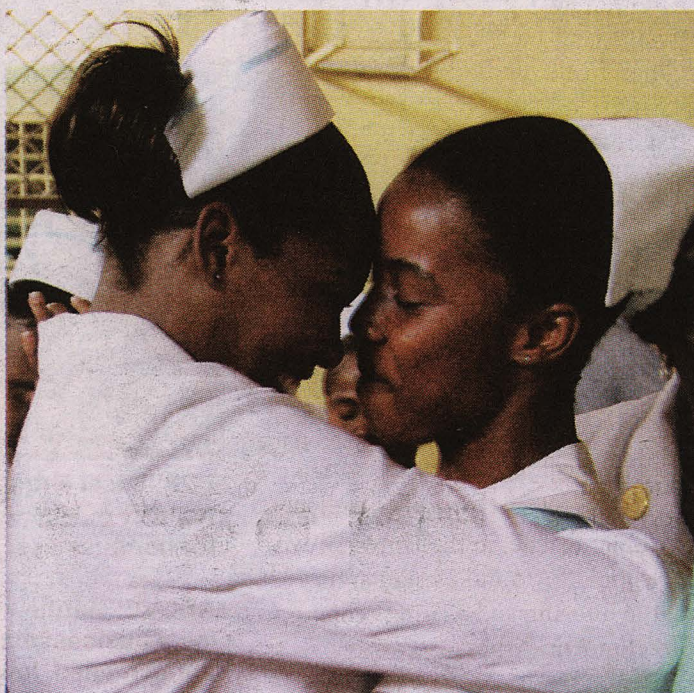
In light of the problems Haiti perpetually faces, it seemed to me a Herculean task, if not an impossible dream, for someone to accomplish anything truly meaningful in Haiti which would make a difference in the lives of Haitians.

Create quality careers for Haitians? Improve health care? In the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, I doubted if these goals were attainable. Luckily, no one ever suggested as much to Ruth Barnard and Margie VanMeter.

Ruth Barnard, retired nursing professor emeritus from the University of Michigan, and Marge VanMeter, retired public health nurse, played integral roles in founding the Faculté des Sciences Infirmières de l'Université Episcopale d'Haïti in Léogâne (FSIL) Faculty of Nursing Science of the Episcopal University of Haiti. After the school was built, they went on to create the Haiti Nursing Foundation with other supporters to fund the improvement of nursing education in Haiti.

We traveled first to Les Cayes, on the southwest

shore of Haiti's peninsula, where commencement ceremonies for the third graduation class of the FSIL nursing school were held. In spite of terrible losses from the earthquake, the students persevered and earned their Bachelor of Nursing degrees. The students looked impeccable in their all-white outfits and nursing caps. That evening, we attended the commencement ceremony where the students were decked out in caps and gowns. In spite of the sweltering heat, the ceremony was beautiful. Speeches by the valedictorian and salutatorian resonated with the students' desires to improve health care in their native country. "Nous sommes la différence," they said, which



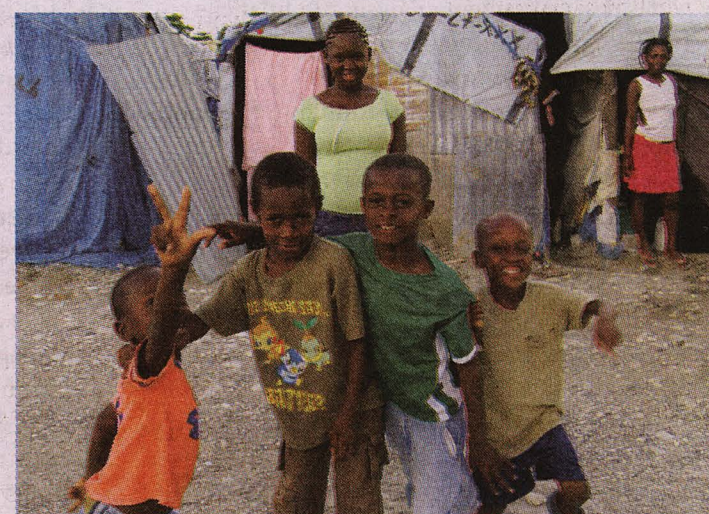
means, "We are the difference."

And they are the difference. With BSN degrees from the only four-year nursing school in Haiti, the graduates immediately started making a difference in health care for Haitians. One new graduate, Dana St. Fleur, had already gotten a job at Johanniter International Clinic, where she was working primarily with earthquake victims in need of physical therapy.

"Before I graduated, I knew I wanted to help people and be a nurse, but I didn't know exactly what I wanted to do," Dana said. "Then I came here and can help the people who lost arms, legs in the earthquake. I love what I'm doing."

Dana is not alone. All 50 graduates of FSIL nursing school are working in Haiti, making a difference that grows exponentially. They are well-educated and providing excellent health care...they earn money to support themselves and their families...they buy goods and pay for services which stimulate the Haitian economy...and they inspire others to do the same.

The Haiti Nursing Foundation isn't resting on its laurels after helping establish the four-year nursing school. The group is now working with Rutgers



Clockwise, from top: Ruth Barnard is honored with a classroom named for her; Margie VanMeter with valedictorian Fritza Etienne; cheerful kids in front of their tent home on the school grounds; a new graduate gets a hug from an undergraduate classmate.

University in New Jersey to establish an online masters' program for promising graduates who want to further their education. That training will enable students to become leaders and educators in the future. It is, indeed, the wonderful butterfly effect of a small group of people in Ann Arbor today having a profound effect on the lives of thousands of Haitians today and tomorrow.

For more information about the Haiti Nursing Foundation, visit: www.haitinursing.org or email: info@haitinursing.org

1 Matters.org

Americans believe in fairness for budgeting

continued from page 2

netted 650,000 new jobs during this period of "higher taxes."

I was a new homeowner at the time and on a fairly tight budget, but I didn't really notice the effect of that tax increase in my daily life. I was so proud when Michigan's AA bond rating was restored and the state started flourishing again. I felt I had participated in the shared sacrifice similar to that of my parents during the depression and WWII when commodities were rationed and people grew vegetables in their backyards to help themselves and the county through a difficult time.

Many of today's politicians do not seem to think that Americans are capable of stepping up and contributing to the well-being of our country. That may be true of the extremely poor, whose belts are already on the tightest notch – but those are precisely the people who will suffer if emergency food programs like the supplemental feeding program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and SNAP continue to be cut. If the rationale is truly that we all need to engage in shared sacrifice, then how are the wealthy sacrificing?

The argument against tax cuts is that this is a time when we need to stimulate job creation. Cutting taxes takes money out of the economy that would have been used for consumption and investment, thereby expanding the

workers needed to satisfy the demand. But the wealthy calculate whether or not to invest and in which country to invest, based on whether or not they think it will increase their wealth. It seems that few are choosing to invest in the U.S. on that basis right now. On the other hand, people who are financially challenged use money to meet their immediate needs: they will finally get new tires for their car or replace the vacuum cleaner that hardly works anymore, keeping that money circulating and leading to employment.

The Americans I know believe in fairness; while they like to indulge themselves, they know it isn't healthy as a way of life and are quite capable, and sometimes even relieved, to stop splurging for a compelling reason. I believe that our financial health and our fiscal legacy is such a reason.

No one wants to feel like a chump, though, sacrificing while others game the system. So it is incumbent on all of us to refuse to participate in corruption. We should not accept benefits we don't need, scrutinize our medical bills for accuracy and reasonableness regardless of who is actually paying the bills – and act with integrity in our own financial dealings.

Perhaps there is a values gap in our country. This is our chance to address it and exemplify the core democratic value of promoting the common good.

Help send Groundcover volunteers and vendors to the annual street newspaper national conference

Street newspapers across the nation are making plans to gather in Nashville in mid-October to share and innovate strategies to promote economic independence for the housing insecure. Creating better and more widely sold street newspapers be a major topic.

We are blessed with a large number of active volunteers and vendors who contribute to Groundcover in many ways.

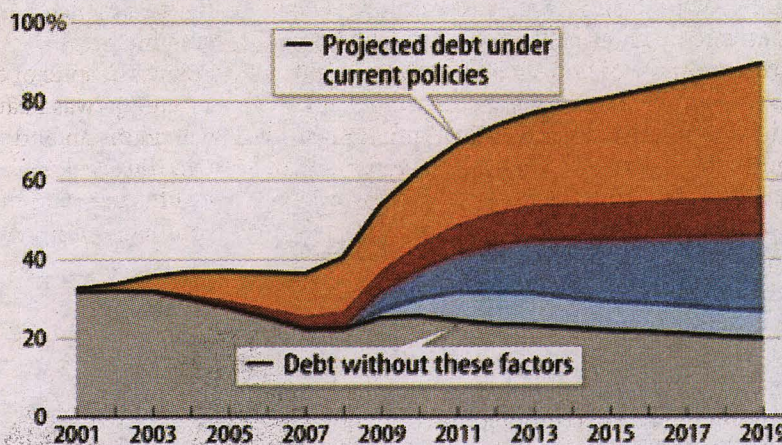
Many would like to attend the conference. The fee for the conference and three nights housing is \$275, which is prohibitive for many of our folks, especially as they will also miss at least two days of work while they are gone.

You can help by making a contribution to Groundcover News and designating it for our NASNA Conference scholarship fund.

Tax Cuts, Wars Account For Nearly Half Of Public Debt By 2019

Debt held by the public as a share of GDP

■ Bush-Era Tax Cuts
 ■ TARP, Fannie, and Freddie
 ■ Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan
 ■ Recovery Measures
 ■ Other Debt



Source: CBPP analysis based on Congressional Budget Office estimates. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities | cbpp.org



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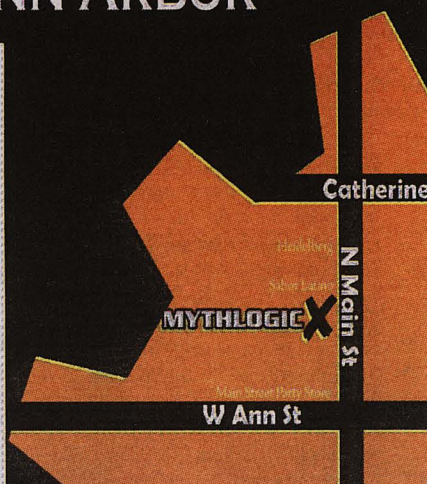
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Cryptoquote

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GROUNDCOVER VENDOR CODE

While Groundcover News is a nonprofit organization and newspaper vendors are considered contracted self-employers, we still have expectations of how vendors should conduct themselves while selling and representing the paper.

The following list is our Vendor Code of Conduct, which every vendor reads and signs before receiving a badge and papers. We request that if you discover a vendor violating any tenets of the Code, please contact us and provide as many details as possible. Our paper and our vendors should be positively impacting our County.

All vendors must agree to the following code of conduct:

- Groundcover News will be distributed for a voluntary donation of \$1. I agree not to ask for more than a dollar or solicit donations by any other means.
- I will only sell current issues of Groundcover News.
- I agree not to sell additional goods or products when selling the paper or to panhandle, including panhandling with only one paper.
- I will wear and display my badge when selling papers.
- I will only purchase the paper from Groundcover News Staff and will

not sell to or buy papers from other Groundcover News vendors, especially vendors who have been suspended or terminated.

- I agree to treat all customers, staff, other vendors respectfully. I will not "hard sell," threaten, harass or pressure customers, staff, or other vendors verbally or physically.
- I will not sell Groundcover News under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- I understand that I am not a legal employee of Groundcover News but a contracted worker responsible for my own well-being and income.
- I understand that my badge is property of Groundcover News and will not deface it. I will present my badge when purchasing the papers.
- I agree to stay off private property when selling Groundcover News.
- I understand to refrain from selling on public buses, federal property or stores unless there is permission from the owner.
- I agree to stay at least one block away from another vendor. I will also abide by the Vendor corner policy.

If you see any Groundcover News vendors not abiding by the code of conduct, please report the activity to:
contact@groundcovernews.com
 734-972-0926

ACROSS

- Gemstone
- Hexadecimal equivalent of 44,541
- Fraud (slang)
- Over
- Director Ephron
- Singer Franklin
- Fabric
- Patella
- Phobos or Titan
- He played title roles in *Stanley and Livingstone* and *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*
- Depot (abbr.)
- Fictional king
- Airport code for Atikokan, Ontario
- The Golden _____
- Threw
- City in Israel
- Dozes
- Birthmarks
- His roles include Quasimodo, Captain Bligh, and Captain Kidd
- Village in Louisiana
- Legatee
- Obtain
- Rendezvous
- Muhammad and Laila
- Unix stream editor
- Dan Blocker role
- Grog
- His films include *Spartacus*, *Marathon Man*, and *The Boys from Brazil*
- Cutaneous disease
- _____ *Nanette*
- Flow regulator
- Use transportation
- Engrave
- Ford
- Object of worship
- Pedal digits
- Prepared

DOWN

- Soapstone component
- Arlo's nemesis
- School _____, in Michigan
- Attests
- Polaris, at the North Pole
- Egyptian cross

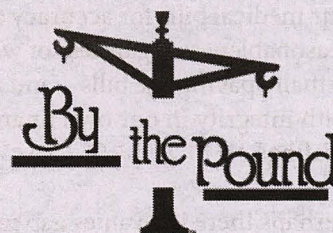
British Film Stars

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- He appeared in *The Great Escape*, *You Only Live Twice*, and *Halloween*
- _____ Jacques
- Skillful
- Large truck
- Large reptile, for short
- Beyond control
- Horse's hair
- David Carradine role
- Incorrect
- Dice game
- Blood of the immortals
- Photojournalist Mathew
- Poet Ogden
- Thai currency
- Greek letters
- Bring forth
- Supped

- Energy units
- Jib
- Mythological river
- Archangel
- Shakespearean verse
- Sharp, thin fragment
- 15th century Italian printer
- Escape
- Money of Georgia
- Solution having low pH
- Reverse an action
- Spool
- _____ and ahs
- Rick's paramour
- Event management company
- Trust

Puzzle by Jeff Richmond



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The Sky is Falling Again

by David Julius Caesar Salad

Bricks of buildings decay
In fast forward
While I walk in slow motion
On sidewalks cracked and torn
By tornadoes of tomorrow

A bearded man
Stands before me
Naked of dreams
His crocodile smile
Melts off his frozen face

The sky is falling again

(copyright Dec. 8, 2010)

A poem, by Gina

I was 435 lbs and struggled with depression and still do at times. I've been given the grace to suffer and bear the burdens of others. I'm a self-taught, visionary artist who follows what flows from the heart. Some of the poetry I hear with my soul's ear. This is the first poem I wrote after feeling my hopes and dreams were dashed:

Light of the World, you are holy divine. I will surrender my life to serve you for this is the purpose of my soul's design.

I know you as the gate keeper in my darkest hour. I feel your presence surrounding me, it lifts and empowers.

Come, Holy Spirit, and touch the hidden place. Fill every heart's desire

while transcending time and space.

Sweet gentle breeze, all consuming fire, you compel the inward man to ascend continuously higher.

Eternal Jesus, Lord above, I could never repay your labor of love; so I'll offer up brokenness of heart and soul knowing that you, Son of Righteousness, will take control.

Street Soccer USA unites homeless players from across the country

courtesy of:
www.streetnewsservice.org / Street Sense (USA)

Minneapolis was the big winner of this year's Street Soccer USA, but during this tournament everyone wins something. For most of the players – homeless, street paper vendors or recovering addicts – being part of the game is just the push they need to start a new life.

Sacramento missed the goal. It was New York's turn.

"GOAL!" The team went wild, jumping up and down and embracing. The Sacramento team walked over and shook hands. Then they got off the field so the next game could begin.

In spite of the searing heat, this year's Street Soccer USA Cup brought plenty of excitement to the Washington Kastles Stadium. Every player who came to the field brought more than energy, skill and discipline. Each brought a story of personal struggle as well.

Street Soccer USA uses the game

of soccer to help get homeless men, women and youths off the streets. To be eligible to play, competitors must have been homeless for the past 18 months, have been making their livings as street paper vendors or have been enrolled in drug or alcohol rehabilitation.

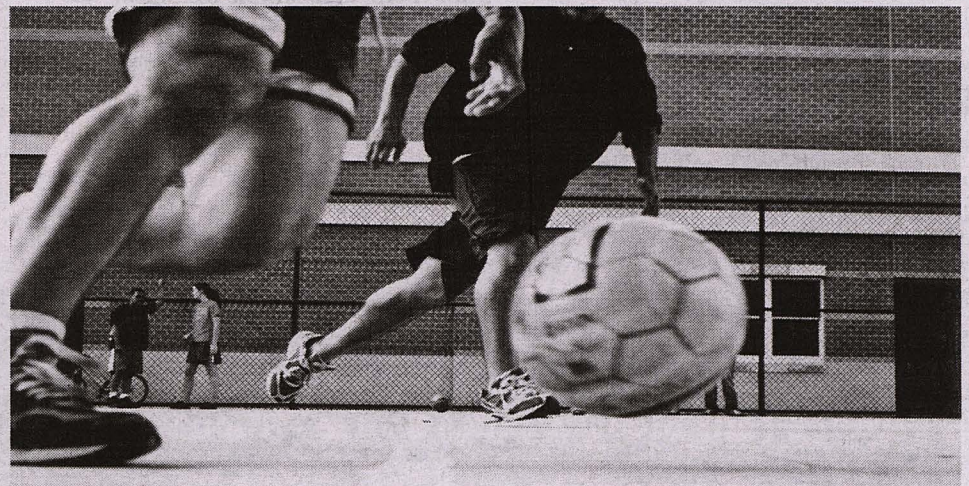
Players from 18 different cities across the country attend practices during the 16-week season. They also set both short-term and long-term goals for themselves off the field.

This year, Minneapolis captured the cup. But everyone who played gained strength and living skills, organizers said.

"Street Soccer is not about being a good soccer player," said founder and CEO Lawrence Cann. "It's about being a good human being."

Cann got the idea for Street Soccer USA while he was participating in a community service project called Community Works in North Carolina and saw how many young people were on the streets with nothing to do, and no direction in life.

"They had a lot of anger, frankly," Cann



Street soccer players compete in a court in Washington (Photo by Jon Howell)

said. "They needed physical activity or sports to keep them motivated."

The first American team was formed in 2006, and the national league was developed in 2008. This year, 16 ambassadors were selected as a pool, and from that, eight will represent the U.S. in the Homeless World Cup, which will be held in Paris, France in late August. D.C. Knights player Milton Marquez made it into the pool.

"Soccer is something I've always wanted as a kid, and I never had the chance,"

Marquez said. "I guess this means to never give up, and I love it."

Marquez was playing soccer while at Neighbors Consejo, a program that offers shelter and rehabilitation to the Latino homeless in D.C., when he met Abdul-Baki and other Street Soccer volunteers.

With the help of Street Soccer USA and his coach, Omar Abdul-Baki, Marquez has managed to transform

see Street Soccer, page 11

Bebé: the ultimate 'rags to riches' story

courtesy of www.streetnewsservice.org / Street News Service

As a child, Tiago Manuel Dias Correia was far from a star in the making. Abandoned by his parents and placed in an orphanage aged just 10, life was tough for the boy from the outskirts of Lisbon. As a form of escape, the young Tiago would spend hours on the street kicking a ball around, dreaming of one day becoming a professional footballer. Incredibly, just a few short years later and against all odds, those dreams have become a reality.

More commonly known in the football world as Bebé – a nickname gleaned from his elder brother which means 'baby' in Portuguese – Tiago Correia now finds himself contracted to Manchester United and a regular in the Portuguese under-21 national squad. With all the glitz and glamour this professional life entails, it is safe to assume the challenging circumstances of his formative years must seem far in the past.

His parents were immigrants from Cape Verde. The family led a rough life and after moving in with his grandmother for a while, Bebé was taken, at the age of 10, to a respected catholic orphanage called Casa do Gaiato.

A former coach, Gonçalo Sequeira dos Santos, who worked with Bebé when he was 18, says he always knew Tiago had potential: "We all thought he was going somewhere." He didn't know, however, if the winds would blow his way. "Sometimes you can be very, very good but the doors don't open for you. I always thought he would make it as a footballer, but I never imagined he

would get to Manchester United."

Sequeira dos Santos remembers an outgoing kid, but also a hard working player: "He was very outgoing, lots of fun but also very responsible and respectful of the rules. He was very disciplined, which was a consequence of the great education he got in Casa do Gaiato."

For the coach it was "clear from the beginning" that Bebé was a player with star qualities. "He was very, very fast. Had great physical resistance and was very loose, he didn't need any help, he would alone figure out the move he had to make. It was a player that could win a game."

Sequeira dos Santos, who continues to coach the street football team, says that Bebé is "undoubtedly an inspiration" for younger kids: "Everyone dreams about what happened to him happening to them," he admits. But the coach stresses the importance of making young players understand that "before Tiago got to Manchester he passed by [Vitória de] Guimarães, and before that by Estrela [da Amadora]. He worked really, really hard." Most of his players, the coach explains, would be "extremely happy" with an opportunity in any professional club, let alone one as big as Manchester United. So Bebé's story is, for them, an example to follow.

Regardless of Bebé's success, Sequeira dos Santos has a word of advice for any budding starlets bidding to follow in his now considerable footsteps: "It's very important the younger players understand that yes, football is important and they should follow their dream but they need to have a Plan B, and that Plan B needs to be related with

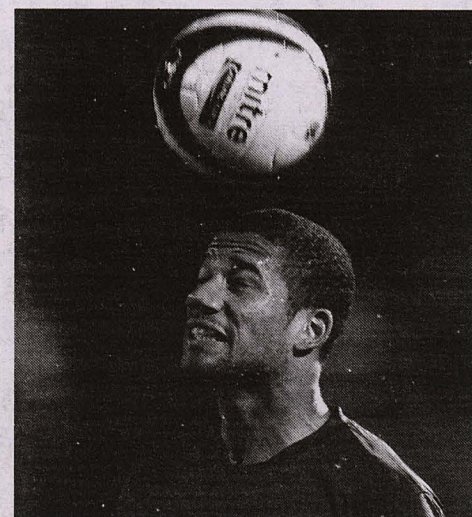
their education so that they will have the social and professional knowledge and ability to succeed in the work market."

Bebé's rapid rise into the football stratosphere began in the summer of 2009, when he signed for the then third division side Estrela da Amadora. A series of strong performances soon earned him a transfer to Vitória de Guimarães – a club in the Portuguese Super Liga – the following summer. A sparkling start to his time at Guimarães saw him score five goals in six pre-season matches, ensuring that scouts from around Europe began to take notice. None were more curious than Manchester United, who were soon keen to meet the €9 million release clause in his contract. Incredibly, a mere seven weeks after signing a three-year contract at Guimarães, Bebé was on his way to the world-famous English club.

Speaking of the highly unconventional nature of the transfer at the time, Manchester United Manager, Sir Alex Ferguson, said: "When we identify someone with potential, we normally assess that over a period of time. But we have a good scout in Portugal, and he's very bright. He's got a tremendous instinct about the boy and other clubs were starting to hover on the boy, so we made a quick decision."

"He's raw material, but we can work with that. It's a fairy tale when you read about his background," said the Manchester United manager.

Bebé was 20 when he signed with the British club. "I wasn't expecting this at all. I would imagine that I might go to a bigger club but my plans were to have



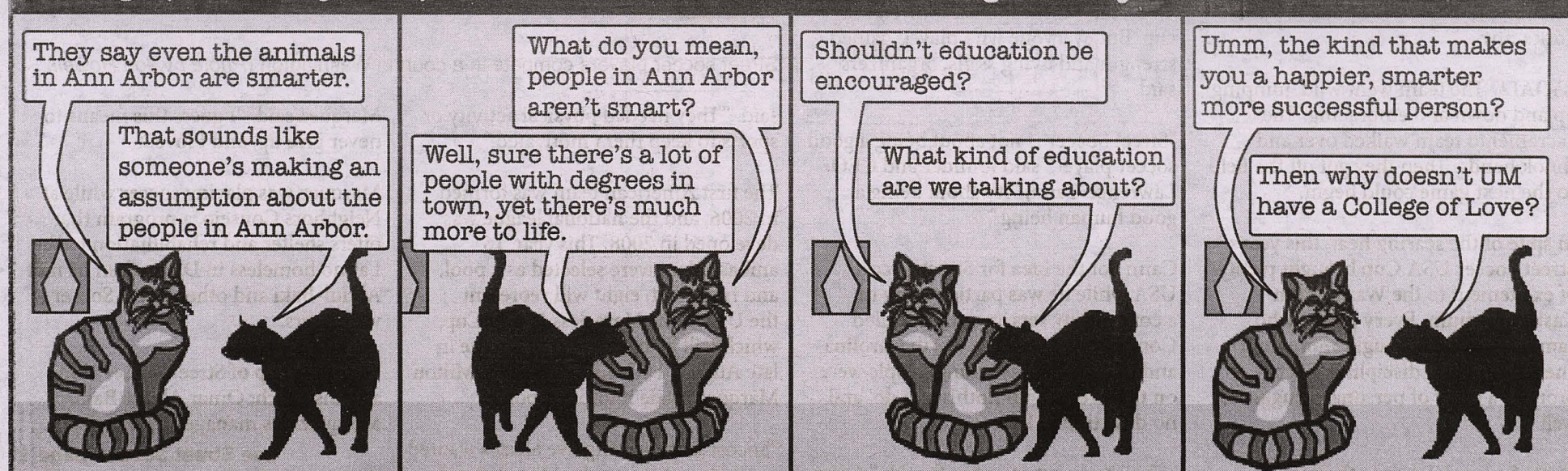
one or two good seasons in Guimarães and then I'd see what would happen. I wasn't expecting this to be so quick. I was in shock," said Bebé in an interview to the Portuguese press at the time of his transfer.

With very little formal football coaching behind and no knowledge of English, Bebé moved to the United Kingdom by himself. But he promised to find room for company: "When everything is taken care of and I'm settled, I'll bring my grandmothers and my girlfriend to live with me," he said.

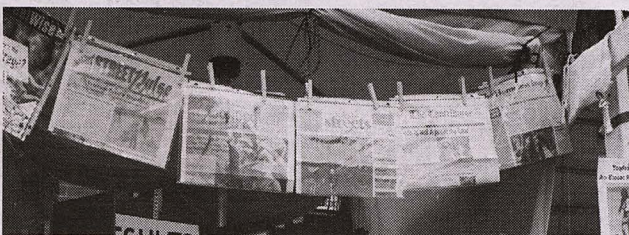
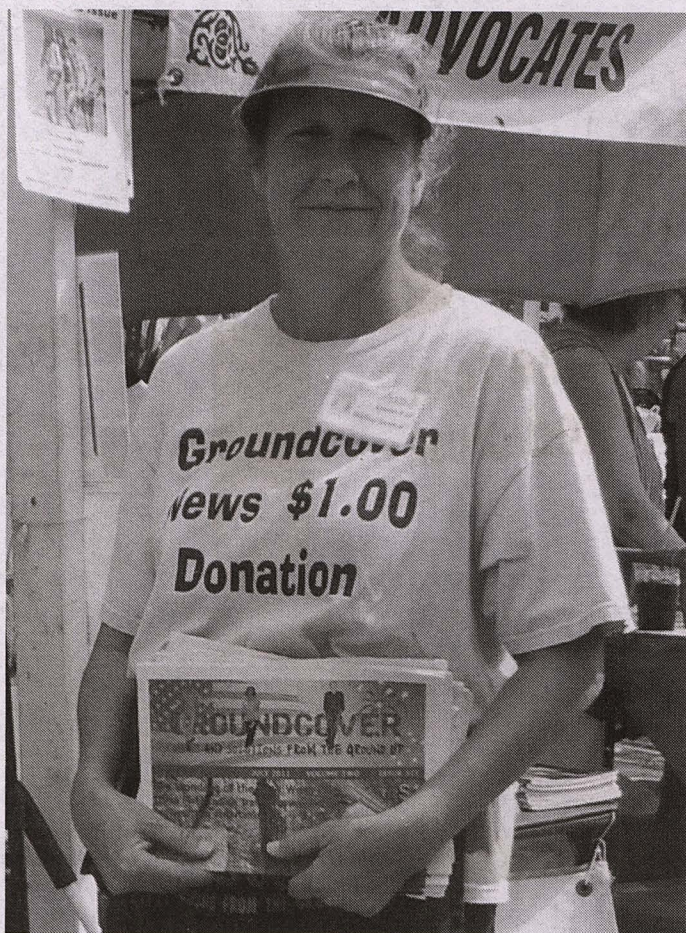
Still, these were big changes for a young man who was living in the youngster's shelter until he moved to England. Casa do Gaiato is still the place Bebé considers home, and he intends to return for a visit whenever he goes to Portugal: "They helped me a lot and will always be my friends. Whenever I go back to Portugal, on my days off, I will go meet them right away, I'll spend the night there."

What Bebé didn't know is that he would soon leave the UK and start a new adventure. Currently on loan from Manchester, the Portuguese footballer is now playing for the Turkish club Beşiktaş, but should be back to Old Trafford in a year time.

Strange (but Mostly True) Stories About a Mother and her Daughter • Cy Klone © 2011



Groundcover News makes its debut appearance at Ann Arbor Street Art Fair



Clockwise, from left: Groundcover vendor Shelley sells papers outside the Groundcover booth at art fair; vendor Rissa gets a supportive hug from GNC board member Veronica Sanitate; volunteer Keagan and vendor Austin work both sides of the art fair booth; Groundcover News takes its place among street newspapers from across the country, displayed at the art fair booth.

Street soccer for homeless provides impetus to change lives

continued from page 9

his life. He found a job in construction and an apartment to live in. He pays for everything and is able to support himself.

"All these people, like Omar, have helped so much," Marquez said. "We've learned there are other ways to live than on the streets."

Some players, especially those who moved from other countries, are advanced while others have never touched a soccer ball before. But they are all there to play the game.

"Players gain a positive attitude," said Abdul-Baki, the director and one of the coaches for the D.C. Knights and Arlington Tigers. "If they can be successful in soccer then they can be successful in other things in life."

According to Cann, about 75 percent of the soccer players achieve positive outcomes in other areas of life, such as employment or housing.

"Homelessness is the symptom of the breakdown of community," Cann said. "And sports create social bonds, which

constitutes what people lacked in the first place."

Along with attending weekly practices, players attend off-field sessions with their coaches to learn essential life skills to grow both physically and mentally. And the game doesn't end with the Cup. Street Soccer grads form new teams and play against each other. Some work as coaches or informal mentors.

"The Cup isn't the ending but the beginning," Abdul-Baki said. "It's the bridge to the next step in their lives."

Puzzle Solutions from page 8

CRYPTOQUOTE

"I am so excited to extend myself behind the scenes as a designer and to – as my father puts it – finally have a real job."

-Lady Gaga

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Local man travels the country to help people confronted with disaster

by Susan Beckett
Publisher

When I heard of local resident Bob Milstein's frequent Red Cross deployments to disaster areas, I recalled that he once worked for AT&T and had visions of himself atop utility poles restoring power. His wife got a good laugh over that. He's been working to overcome a fear of heights!

This year, Bob Milstein's routine has been anything but routine. He has regular volunteer days with Food Gatherers and Jewish Family Services, serves on the board of the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice, and helps out at a handful of other area agencies and food banks. But his work as a Red Cross Disaster Response volunteer has had him chasing the aftermath of tornadoes and finding replacements for his normal volunteer activities.

In Mississippi he got to do his preferred Red Cross volunteer job: client casework. As a caseworker, he interviews families to determine their needs. He sets them up with the immediate disaster-related services the Red Cross provides and refers them to other agencies, as needed. The area he was assigned to in Mississippi was rural, so he traveled to people's residences, most of which had major damage. He educated them about FEMA and helped them request assistance for their home.

He was deployed to Birmingham, Alabama toward the end of the Red Cross disaster relief operation there. Preparing for the next disaster, he cleaned, inventoried and stowed cots, shelters, and cambros – insulated containers that keep food warm while it's being served from the Red Cross' Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV).

The Minneapolis tornado struck the same day as the tornadoes that hit Joplin, Missouri. Again, Bob was deployed toward the end of the operation, this time to supervise client case workers. The city had red-tagged hundreds of domiciles, indicating they were unsafe to live in and residents had to evacuate. The Red Cross posted flyers and signs in these areas offering assistance and displaying the phone

number to call for help. Bob's team staffed the phones and sent out case workers to those calling in.

Dismaying to Bob was that little effort was made to safeguard areas that had been condemned. He recalls one man who returned from a shelter to gather his things and found that not only had his possessions been taken, but the house had been gutted of its copper plumbing, making it no longer viable for repair. When the Minnesota government shut down, Bob was concerned about the fate of the displaced people in Minneapolis once the Red Cross had provided all the assistance it was able to.

So how did an ordinary guy who worked desk jobs all his life become a Disaster Action Team member? It started with Hurricane Katrina. He had taken an early retirement from AT&T, saw a Red Cross ad for volunteers, and thought, "Why not?"

He and about 200 other local volunteers were trained in a condensed course. He then was deployed to San Antonio, where many of the evacuees from New Orleans were being sheltered. He had been in his hotel for a couple of nights, waiting for an assignment, when there was a knock on his door at 4 a.m. In walked a volunteer manager who had been deployed to Houston and then evacuated to San Antonio when Hurricane Rita was heading that way. He needed a place to sleep and Bob had an extra bed in his room. When he learned that Bob had not yet been put in to action, he said, "Fine. You'll be on my client casework team."

Bob was quickly trained to interview people and set about assisting clients along with other case workers to handle approximately 500 people each day. The Red Cross was sheltering 20,000 people in Kelly Air Force Base, and feeding them all three times each day, so they used an expedited interviewing process. A component of the interview process was to verify that those displaced and seeking assistance had not previously received Red Cross aid, ensuring standardized assistance for all affected.

Bob made two trips to the New Orleans



Bob Milstein stands at the ready to respond to disasters all over the world.

area during the six months the Red Cross carried out relief operations there and he traveled there in February with the Jewish Federation to supervise a group of rabbinic students for one week. They attempted to repair a fence and cleaned out a temple that had been destroyed. They dug an enormous pit and buried the sacred texts according to Biblical law. The next week, Bob led a group of high school students who gaily smashed rotten drywall and gutted houses. They also duct tape closed abandoned refrigerators and moved them to the street for pick-up.

"The smell stayed in my nostrils for weeks afterward," Bob recalled.

Returning with the Red Cross in March, he was assigned to feeding duty in the lower Plaquemines Parish. As he drove the ERV through the streets, he was struck by the sight of boats in trees and houses smashed into one another. He delivered most of the meals to a FEMA trailer camp. The nearest grocery store with electricity was 50 miles away.

Living so long without basic services took a large toll on people. Bob noted that among the most-needed volunteers

were mental health professionals. As time went on, there were many suicides among evacuees.

Once the Katrina operation concluded, the Red Cross informed Bob that if he wished to continue as a volunteer, he'd have to be active in the local chapter's Emergency Services group. He agreed and now is "on call" for local emergencies one out of every six weeks, and national disasters if needed. Because he likes to be involved with people, he prefers casework.

He describes himself as an average guy, one of some 250,000 Red Cross volunteers across the country. He notes they are always looking for more volunteers and will teach newcomers what they need to know. All volunteers need is a desire to help.

Contact the local Red Cross by filling out an online application at wc-redcross.org, or you can call [(734)] 971-5300.

As this story was being written, Bob was deployed to Bismarck, North Dakota to help with the flood relief work.

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